1	2	3
3.	Karnal	1
4.	Panipat	2
5.	Kaithal	2
6.	Kurukshetra	2
7.	Jind	1
8.	Sonepat	2
9.	Rohtak	1
10.	Gurgaon	2
	Total	20

Accident at Unmanned Level Crossing

201. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether five persons killed on the spot and nine injured when the Secunderabad-bound Krishna Express from Tirupati ran into an Andhra Pradesh State Road Transport Corporation bus on unmanned level crossing between Venkatagiri and Gudur stations on 22.9.1996;

(b) if so, the total number of persons killed and injured;

(c) whether any inquiry has been conducted in this regard;

(d) the total loss suffered and compensation provided to the victims;

(e) the percentage of rail accidents occurred in the country and in Andhra Pradesh during the last three years; and

(f) the total loss suffered by Railways in Andhra Pradesh by train accidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir. 7405 Tirupati-Secunderabad Express collided with the bus at an unmanned level crossing between Vendadu and Kondagunta stations of Tirupathi-Gudur section of Guntakal Division of South Central Railway at about 7.30 hours on 24.9.96, as a result of which 4 persons died on the spot while 10 persons were injured and admitted to the hospital.

(b) With 4 more persons succumbing to injuries in the hospital, total of 8 persons died in the accident, while 6 sustained injuries.

(c) Yes, Sir. The accident was enquired into by a Committee of Officers.

(d) The Railways suffered a loss of about Rs. 65,000/- on account of damage to the Railway property in this accident. Compensation is not payable to the kins of victims in case of unmanned level crossing accident.

(e) The figures of accidents are not maintained State-wise. However, the number of consequential train accidents on South Central Railway, which serves a major portion of Andhra Pradesh, vis-a-vis the number of consequential train accidents which took place on Indian Railways as a whole, during the last three years are given below :

Year	Accidents occurred on South Central Railway	Accidents occurred on Indian Railways
1993-94	57 (11%)	520
1994-95	50 (10%)	501
1995-96	41 (10%)	398

(The percentage of accident is indicated in brackets)

(f) Information of loss suffered by the Railway due to accidents is not maintained State-wise. However, the loss suffered by South Central Railway on account of accidents that occurred between April and October 1996 amounted to Rs. 6.65 crores.

Losses by Air India

202. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR :
SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Air India is losing rupees one crore daily as reported in 'Hindustan Times' dated October 25, 1996;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(c) the reasons therefor;

(d) the approximate amount of loss likely to be incurred by Air India during the current financial year and

(e) the remedial measures taken or proposed to be taken to meet the loss?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M IBRAHIM) : (a) to (c). The estimated loss of Air India for the period April to September, 1996 is Rs. 195 crores. The losses are owing to increase in expenditure on account of interest and depreciation on new aircraft, reduction in yield due to increased competition, increased landing, handling and navigational charges, agitation of engineers etc.

(d) The budgeted loss for 1996-97 is Rs. 230 crores.

(e) To improve its financial performance Air India is taking steps to intensify its marketing efforts, augment capacity, reduce non operating costs and to improve its product, image and on time performance.

Pending Mining Lease

203. SHRI RAMCHANDRA VEERAPPA : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether several mining lease licences of various States are pending clearance by the Union Government since long;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) the reasons for delay in this regard; and

(d) the time by which these are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) to (d) Mineral Concessions are granted as per provisions of Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 and Rules made thereunder. Proposals for grant of mineral concessions are received by the Central Government for minerals specified under the Schedule I of the aforesaid Act from respective State Governments and are processed and disposed of as per provisions of law. All efforts are being made to expedite approval of Central Government. 462 cases have been cleared during the year 1995-96. In certain cases the proposals received from the State Government are incomplete. In such cases, State Government are asked to furnish completed information for disposal.

Survey for Tumkur-Sira-Hiriyur-Chitradurga Railway Line

204. SHRI P. KODANDARAMAIAH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any survey for Tumkur-Sira-Hiriyur-Chitradurga railway line has been conducted to link Davanagers directly;

(b) if so, the present position of the project; and

(c) the time by which the above project is likely to be completed.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) The survey has been taken up.

(b) and (c). Further consideration of the project would be possible once the survey report becomes available.

[Translation]

Temporary Telephone Connections

205. SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government attention has been drawn to the news item captioned "Asthai telephone ke liye sthai intjar" appearing in "Navbharat Times" dated September 9,1996;

(b) if so, the details and reasons therefor;

(c) the action taken against the earring officials;

(d) whether any new plan has been formulated by the Government to provide temporary telephone connections expeditiously;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (f) Sir, the information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

[English]

Demand and Production of Concrete Sleeper Factories

206. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the demand and production of concrete sleeper factories, year-wise during each of the last three years in the country;

(b) the location wise details of concrete sleeper factories functioning in the country at present;

(c) the factories out of them owned by the Government and private concern separately;

(d) whether there is any need of further sleeper factories; and

(e) if so, the details therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) The demand and production of concrete sleepers factories for the last three years is furnished below :

(Fig. in lakhs)

Year	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
Demand	67.10	59.10	56.00
Productions	67.50	61.60	56.40